

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

- 1.-25. (cancelled).
26. (new) Apparatus for determining the coagulation status of a liquid, the apparatus comprising a chamber for holding a quantity of said liquid, a body disposed in the chamber and a magnetic device, the magnetic device co-operating with said chamber and being arranged in use to provide a magnetic field which causes the body to migrate to and fro within the chamber through uncoagulated liquid, wherein the body is other than a particle.
27. (new) Apparatus as recited in claim 26 wherein means are provided to detect movement and/or position of the body within the chamber.
28. (new) Apparatus as recited in claim 27 wherein the means to detect movement comprises a magnetic field sensor.
29. (new) Apparatus as recited in claim 26 wherein the free volume within the chamber when the chamber contains the body is less than 10 μ l.
30. (new) Apparatus as recited in claim 26 wherein the chamber is formed in a disposable support strip which is removable from the apparatus.
31. (new) Apparatus as recited in claim 26 wherein the chamber is elongate and of substantially uniform cross-section.
32. (new) Apparatus as recited in claim 31 wherein the chamber is between 3 and 5 mm in length.
33. (new) Apparatus as recited in claim 26 wherein the body is elongate and has a cross-section of substantially the same shape as the cross-section of the chamber.
34. (new) Apparatus as recited in claim 26 wherein the body is dimensioned in cross-section so that there is a clearance of at least 50 microns between the body and walls of the

chamber.

35. (new) Apparatus as recited in claim 34 wherein the clearance is less than 300 microns.

36. (new) Apparatus as recited in claim 26 wherein the length of the chamber and body may be chosen so that the body can move at least 0.5mm to and fro within the chamber.

37. (new) Apparatus as recited in claim 26 wherein the body can move a maximum of 2mm to and fro within the chamber.

38. (new) Apparatus as recited in claim 26 wherein the body comprises a material which experiences a force when placed in a magnetic field.

39. (new) Apparatus as recited in claim 26 wherein a clotting reagent is disposed in the chamber.

40. (new) Apparatus for determining the coagulation status of a liquid, the apparatus comprising a chamber for holding a quantity of said liquid, a body disposed in the chamber and a magnetic device, the magnetic device co-operating with said chamber and being arranged in use to provide a magnetic field which causes the body to move to and fro within the chamber through uncoagulated liquid, wherein the cross-sectional area of the body measured in a plane generally perpendicular to its normal direction of travel in use is at least half that of the chamber in the same plane.

41. (new) Apparatus as recited in claim 40 wherein means are provided to detect movement and/or position of the body within the chamber.

42. (new) Apparatus as recited in claim 41 wherein the means to detect movement comprises a magnetic field sensor.

43. (new) Apparatus as recited in claim 40 wherein the free volume within the

chamber when the chamber contains the body is less than 10 μ l.

44. (new) Apparatus as recited in claim 40 wherein the chamber is formed in a disposable support strip which is removable from the apparatus.

45. (new) Apparatus as recited in claim 40 wherein the chamber is elongate and of substantially uniform cross-section.

46. (new) Apparatus as recited in claim 45 wherein the chamber is between 3 and 5 mm in length.

47. (new) Apparatus as recited in claim 40 wherein the body is elongate and has a cross-section of substantially the same shape as the cross-section of the chamber.

48. (new) Apparatus as recited in claim 40 wherein the body is dimensioned in cross-section so that there is a clearance of at least 50 microns between the body and walls of the chamber.

49. (new) Apparatus as recited in claim 48 wherein the clearance is less than 300 microns.

50. (new) Apparatus as recited in claim 40 wherein the length of the chamber and body may be chosen so that the body can move at least 0.5mm to and fro within the chamber.

51. (new) Apparatus as recited in claim 40 wherein the body can move a maximum of 2mm to and fro within the chamber.

52. (new) Apparatus as recited in claim 40 wherein the body comprises a material which experiences a force when placed in a magnetic field.

53. (new) Apparatus as recited in claim 40 wherein a clotting reagent is disposed in the chamber.

54. (new) A method of determining the coagulation status of a liquid sample

comprising the steps of: providing a sample of liquid in a chamber containing a body and applying a magnetic field to the chamber to cause the body to move to and fro within the chamber through uncoagulated liquid, wherein the body is other than a particle.

55. (new) A method as recited in claim 54 comprising the steps of cyclically providing a first and a second magnetic field, said first magnetic field causing the body to move in a first direction and said second magnetic field causing the body to move in a second direction, the second direction being opposite to the first.

56. (new) A method as recited in claim 55 wherein each field is provided as a short pulse, with a field free period between the short pulses.

57. (new) A method as recited in claim 56 wherein the duration of each pulse is less than 500ms.

58. (new) A method as recited in claim 54 wherein the body is caused to move to and fro within the chamber at a frequency of between 0.1 and 10 Hz.

59. (new) A method as recited in claim 54 wherein the magnitude of the magnetic field is less than 25 mT.

60. (new) A method as recited in claim 54 further comprising the step of detecting movement and/or position of the body using a magnetic field sensor.

61. (new) A method as recited in claim 54 wherein a clotting reagent is disposed in the chamber prior to introduction of a sample to be analysed.

62. (new) A method of determining the coagulation status of a liquid disposed in a chamber, comprising the step of using at least one magnetic field to detect the movement and/or position of a body within said liquid, wherein the body comprises a material which experiences a force when placed in said at least one magnetic field, and further wherein said body is other than

a particle.

63. (new) A method of determining the coagulation status of a liquid sample comprising the steps of: providing a sample of liquid in a chamber containing a body; applying a magnetic field to the chamber to cause the body to move to and fro within the chamber through uncoagulated liquid, wherein the cross-sectional area of the body measured in a plane generally perpendicular to its normal direction of travel in use is at least half that of the chamber in the same plane.

64. (new) A method as recited in claim 63 comprising the steps of cyclically providing a first and a second magnetic field, said first magnetic field causing the body to move in a first direction and said second magnetic field causing the body to move in a second direction, the second direction being opposite to the first.

65. (new) A method as recited in claim 64 wherein each field is provided as a short pulse, with a field free period between the short pulses.

66. (new) A method as recited in claim 65 wherein the duration of each pulse is less than 500ms.

67. (new) A method as recited in claim 63 wherein the body is caused to move to and fro within the chamber at a frequency of between 0.1 and 10 Hz.

68. (new) A method as recited in claim 63 wherein the magnitude of the magnetic field is less than 25 mT.

69. (new) A method as recited in claim 63 comprising the step of detecting movement and/or position of the body using a magnetic field sensor.

70. (new) A method as recited in claim 63 wherein a clotting reagent is disposed in the chamber prior to introduction of a sample to be analysed.